



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

cy 183 re'd

AFCIN-2C

16 JAN 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR

50X1

SUBJECT: Comments, CIA Memorandum TS-164825

Attached are AFCIN-2C comments concerning your memorandum of 2 January 1958. These comments do not necessarily represent the official views of AFCIN and are not to be used as such.

1 Incl
Comments

for S. W. GRIFFITH
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-2C
W. B. Brady
Coffey

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COMMENTS
CIA MEMORANDUM TS-164825

We concur in the discussion and conclusions except as noted below.

a. Paragraph 3: The only known AI equipment considered to be "adequate" is installed in the FLASHLIGHT which has a combat ceiling of approximately 51,000 feet. This aircraft is not capable of engaging targets at 70,000 feet.

b. Paragraph 4: We believe that fighters using rocket boost for final climb and closure could pose a nominal threat.

c. Paragraph 5: While it is quite possible that the Soviets might modify a fighter to attain these altitudes, we have no knowledge of such a program. Having no knowledge of such aircraft, it is difficult to say that the threat from them is increasing. We believe that surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles constitute the greatest hazard to operations at the present time. We do not discount the possibility of the existence of a specially designed or modified high altitude fighter.

d. Paragraph 6: Application of the "Zoom" technique seriously penalizes aiming accuracy. Therefore, we believe that integral homing head guided missiles would be more feasible weapons than rockets. We do not believe the Soviets would hesitate to use nuclear warheads, if available, except perhaps over densely populated areas.

e. Paragraph 7: The statement that time is running out for operations at 70,000 feet or less may be true insofar as it pertains to single aircraft on deep penetration missions. We do not believe it applies to well planned coordinated attacks by bomber forces employing defensive measures.

f. Paragraph 8: A recent re-evaluation by ATIC of the B-200 surface-to-air missile system provides for tracking, propulsion, and guidance capabilities to above 80,000 feet. The system should be quite capable of engaging targets at 70,000 feet.

g. Paragraph 12, d: As in paragraph f above.

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